



\$1.5 Million Ready for Farmers and Landowners

Indiana Agriculture Director Andy Miller expanded on the state's vision for conservation last Thursday at the Indiana Livestock Forum in Indianapolis. Governor Daniels' and Lt. Governor Skillman's focus on agricultural economic development and livestock growth has been done in tandem with renewed efforts for environmental responsibility. Miller said more than \$1.5 million in conservation programs are ready to serve Indiana farmers and landowners. He encouraged all Indiana landowners to take advantage of the Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP), and Miller especially encouraged livestock producers to think of CREP as a "new tool" for their operations.

CREP has \$1 million available for landowners who are in the three priority watersheds in the Wabash River Basin to develop conservation practices on their land. These funds must be obligated by June 2008, making it important for landowners to act quickly.

Miller also announced the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's vision to expand CREP to five more watersheds along the Wabash River. ISDA is in the process of negotiating an amendment to allow the expansion through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Additional conservation programs available to landowners include \$350,000 for Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Innovation Grants for local programs through Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to create innovative projects focused on nutrient and sediment reduction. There is also \$200,000 set aside for new partnering incentives for conservation implementation between farmers and their Indiana crop consultant or their SWCD technician.

For additional information about Indiana's CREP or to find out if you are eligible for the conservation programs, please visit our website at www.in.gov/isda. Please [click here to hear excerpts from Miller's speech](#).

***Cultivating Connections* Returns**

Cultivating Connections is returning on a monthly basis to share our latest news regarding Indiana conservation programs and initiatives with our partners. Future publications will include the latest information and updates about CWI programs such as CREP, CWI Grant programs, the Indiana Conservation Partnership Leadership Institute, District Training Incentives and District Support.

Cultivating Connections will also feature links to valuable resources and articles to connect readers to important and interesting information regarding technical assistance, leadership development and potential partnering opportunities.

The Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) looks forward to *cultivating* our *connections* with each of you in the future.

Partnership Connections

Latest News and Newsletters of Interest:

- [IASWCD's Weekly Update](#)
- [NRCS' Hoosier Headlines](#)

Resource Tool Box:

- [SSCB](#)
- [IASWCD](#)
- [NRCS](#)
- [Purdue](#)
- [IDEA](#)



CWI Connections

CREP Update:

To date, Indiana has obligated more than 3,737 acres to CREP and as a result, landowners will reap more than \$968,500 in state dollars alone. Check out Indiana's latest CREP figures broken down by watershed and county listed below.

UPPER WHITE WATERSHED			
County	Obligated Acres	Obligated States Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Boone	18.8	\$2,750.00	\$54,820.00
Delaware	100.2	\$15,570.00	\$292,183.00
Hamilton	321.8	\$169,965.00	\$938,368.00
Hendricks	49.9	\$9,430.00	\$145,508.00
Henry	11.1	\$1,110.00	\$32,367.00
Madison	616.9	\$363,210.00	\$1,798,880.00
Randolph	90.3	\$22,380.00	\$263,314.00
Tipton	39.1	\$3,910.00	\$114,015.00
TOTAL	1248.1	\$588,325.00	\$3,639,459.00

PIGEON HIGHLAND WATERSHED			
County	Obligated Acres	Obligated State Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Gibson	53.8	\$5,380.00	\$156,880.00
Posey	57.9	\$14,010.00	\$168,836.00
Vanderburgh	159.7	\$38,350.00	\$465,685.00
Warrick	73.5	\$9,930.00	\$214,326.00
TOTAL	344.9	\$67,670.00	\$10,057,284

TIPPECANOE WATERSHED			
County	Obligated Acres	Obligated State Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Benton	2.6	\$260.00	\$7581.00
Cass	47.2	\$17,680.00	\$137,635.00
Fulton	371.5	\$40,780.00	\$1,083,294.00
Jasper	97.7	\$19,880.00	\$284,893.00
Kosciusko	73.7	\$11,720.00	\$214,909.00
Marshall	45.5	\$4,760.00	\$132,678.00
Noble	7.7	\$770.00	\$22,453.00
Pulaski	1079.7	\$148,690.00	\$3,148,405.00
Starke	215.1	\$29,340.00	\$626,940.00
White	188.2	\$36,940.00	\$548,791.00
Whitley	15.5	\$1,700.00	\$45,198.00
TOTAL	2144.4	\$312,520.00	\$6,253,070.00

Note: Estimated Federal Leverage figures are based off of the average per acre Federal payment over the length of a CREP contract.

For additional information about Indiana's CREP or to find out if you are eligible for any of these conservation programs, please visit our website at www.in.gov/isda.

CWI Grants Programs:

2006 CWI Grants

The 2006 CWI Grant Recipients have been awarded more than \$393,000. Districts have completed and received final payment on 28 of the 42 awarded grants.

2007 CWI Grants

The 2007 CWI Grant Recipients have been awarded more than \$332,000. Districts have completed and received final payments on nine of 44 awarded grants.

2008 CWI Grants

The State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) and DSC recently announced the new 2008 CWI Grants available to Districts. This year offers the **Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant (CMIG)** and the **Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant (SNRG)**.

The CMIG gives each District an opportunity to receive \$2,000 to market the adoption of local sediment and nutrient management practices. The goal is to create local awareness and reach landowners. As part of the statewide initiative, each District agrees to host an educational event, send out event promotional materials and follow up with landowners. All qualifying applications will be accepted. **Applications are due Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, by 4 p.m. Eastern.** To learn more about the CMIG please [click here](#).

The SNRG offers an open call to all Districts for innovative projects that address sediment and nutrient reduction. These projects must be one year in length and have a project cost/budget of \$3,000 - \$10,000. Districts are encouraged to partner with other organizations, including other Districts, to provide an in-kind match for project costs. **Applications are due Friday, Feb. 1, 2008, by 4 p.m. Eastern.** To learn more about SNRG please [click here](#).

Grant writers will find several helpful tools at their disposal this year. DSC has prepared program guidance documents on the criteria set forth by the SSCB for both of the grant opportunities and instructions on how to apply. This information and grant applications can be found on the ISDA Web site. Applicants will also find the Web site features a

sample SNRG score sheet that the SSCB will use while reviewing applications. These tools and the assistance of your District Support Specialist will serve as invaluable resources to Districts in preparing successful applications.

Indiana Conservation Partnership Leadership Institute:

The SSCB and DSC recently accepted the opportunity to support, enhance and formalize the highly successful and sought-after District supervisor leadership development training pilots held during the past two years. This is a true testimony to the spirit of partnership and the success of these pilots resulted from the hard work and dedication of staff, volunteers and supervisors throughout the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP).

The SSCB financially supported the development of an official ICP Leadership Institute based off of the District supervisor leadership development training pilots. SSCB dedicated \$20,000 to the development and administration of the Leadership Institute and doubled the 2008 District Training Incentive (see below) to allow for greater District participation in the Institute's programs.

DSC currently supports this project by dedicating staff and resources to the development, administration, promotion, coordination and facilitation.

The ICP will officially announce the Leadership Institute and begin promoting its programs at the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' (IASWCD) 2008 Annual Conference (January 14-16, 2008). More information about this highly anticipated project will be available at that time.

District Training Incentive:

In an effort to allow for increased participation in the Leadership Institute, the SSCB recently doubled the 2008 District Training Incentive. Districts can now submit training cost claims for up to \$1,500 per District and may use up to \$750 of the incentive on staff and/or supervisor training costs*(registration fees, hotel bills, per diem, mileage and parking). The SSCB reserved the remaining \$750 of the incentive to be dedicated to supervisor-only training costs.*

**State reimbursement rules apply. Incentive should be used to enhance the leadership and professional development of District supervisors and staff. Some events may not apply. All incentive claims are subject to the discretion of SSCB/DSC.*

District Support:

DSC recently began to focus its District Support program by targeting three main service areas: SWCD Business Planning and Data Support; District Visits and Follow-up Support; and Leadership/Training Development and Implementation. DSC will provide essential staff to the development and operation of the ICP Leadership Institute and the District Visits program while coordinating efforts with the ICP Leadership Development Workgroup and the SSCB District Capacity Subcommittee.

In addition, DSC's District Support Specialists will continue to assist Districts in developing and updating their business plans, an increasingly critical component to participation in other state programs such as the CWI Grants Program.